

As they rode over this dangerous road, Dr. Jackson was armed with a rifle, but that day no attack was made.

"'In perils of robbers.'—One night Dr. Jackson walked a mile and a half from his camp to meet the stage coach as it should pass a certain point. For a few moments he was in the greatest peril of his life, for that coach held a sheriff and his posse who were bringing to trial a desperado and word had been received that at some point there would be a 'hold-up' to rescue the prisoner. When Dr. Jackson signalled at midnight for the stage to stop, the guards thought he was the leader of a band of brigands and instantly a half-dozen revolvers were thrust from the coach. It was a moment of extreme danger, but Dr. Jackson surrendered unconditionally, and soon was welcomed in the coach!

"'Perils of the wilderness.'—At one point the stage was abandoned and all the luggage piled on a lumber wagon, on top of which the passengers seated themselves, riding until midnight in a drizzling rain. Thus they came to a swollen stream, where the bridge had been swept away. A rude raft was made which floated three or four people and as many trunks at a time, and several trips were made. At night the passengers had to camp out under the wagons for several hours, rolled in blankets, waiting for a connecting stage.

"'In peril of fire.'—Traveling down the Missouri Dr. Jackson had an exciting trip of ten days. Twice the steamer caught fire; at one point the steamer was delayed by a herd of buffalo swimming across the river. For two thousand miles the course of the river lay through a wilderness inhabited only by game and roving bands of Indians. At long intervals there were United States forts or trading posts. On one occasion the Indians fired on the boat, but no harm was done.

"'The care of all the churches.'—Paul, the great missionary, when he wrote of what he had endured, said, 'Besides those things that are without, there is—the care of all the churches'—and this care pressed upon our hero. Traveling up and down by long, hard journeys, he formed little churches, just as Paul did, and then he would return to the East, as Paul would return to Antioch or Jerusalem, and go from one church to another with thrilling stories. By his own love and devotion he would kindle in others the purpose to win the whole of our broad, beautiful land for Jesus Christ."

These are hints of some of the things you will find in this story of a remarkable and heroic life. Other men have gone through similar dangers in our great West, when it was a newly-opened land, but for what? Many of them for homes, more of them for gold. But Dr. Jackson did it for a nobler purpose. He did it in order that people might be told of the Heavenly home that the Father hath prepared for them that love him; that those who thought only of earthly riches might be shown how to lay up their treasures in heaven.

It would be worth while for every boy and girl to read this Life of Sheldon Jackson. It would make them understand something of what our great Presbyterian Church is doing. It would make them not only better Presbyterians, but better Americans.—The Presbyterian.

## "TESTIMONIES TO MISSIONS."

By Rev. F. T. Charlton.

Col. Charles Denby, the American minister to China in Mr. Cleveland's first administration, has borne testimony to the worth of missions and missionaries in that land. Below are extracts from letters which were written by him while in China. They are taken from the *Missionary Review of the World* for February, 1888. Writing to Gen. Jas. M. Shackelford, of Evansville, Ind., Col. Denby said:

Dear General:—I wrote you some time since about the missionaries. Since then I have gone through some of the missions here, and will go through all. Believe nobody when he sneers at them. The man is simply not posted on the work. With your enthusiastic religious nature, you can realize the view that the believing Christian takes of the divine side of the question. I, unfortunately more worldly, look at it as the ancient Roman would have done, who said, "I am a man, and nothing that is human is indifferent to me." (Here follow two paragraphs detailing the work as he had seen it). I made the advances that have secured their warm and cordial personal affection. . . . I invited them to visit me and to discuss questions of interest to Americans; particularly, lately, the threatened reprisals at Canton, which called forth some energetic action on the part of this Legation and Admiral Davis. It is idle for any man to decry the missionaries or their work. . . .

The men or the women who put in from 8 o'clock to 4 in teaching Chinese children, on a salary that barely enables one to live, are heroes, or heroines, as truly as Grant or Sheridan, Nelson or Farragut; and all this in a country where a handful of Americans is surrounded by 300,000,000 of Asiatics, liable at any moment to break out into mobs and outrages, particularly in view of the tremendous crimes committed against their race at home.

I am not particularly pro-missionary; these men and women are simply American citizens to me as minister. But as a man I can not but admire and respect them. I can tell the real from the false. These men and women are honest, pious, sincere, industrious, and trained for their work by the most arduous study. Outside of any religious question . . . these people are doing a great work in civilizing, educating, and taking care of helpless thousands. They are the fore-runners of Western methods and Western morality. They are preparing the way for white-winged commerce and material progress, which are knocking so loudly at the gate of the Chinese wall. . . . As a man of the world, talking to sinners like himself, I say that it is difficult to say too much good of missionary work in China, from even the standpoint of the skeptic.

Writing at another time to Dr. Ellinwood, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, Col. Denby said:

I have made it my business to visit every mission in the open parts of China. This inspection has satisfied me that the missionaries deserve all possible respect, encouragement, and consideration. I find no fault with them except excessive zeal. Civilization owes them a vast debt. They have been the educators, physicians, and almoners of the Chinese. All over China they have schools, colleges and hospitals. They